

The proposed merger should go through. I consider myself a very liberal person, opposed to corporate monopolies and an advocate for consumer rights. This merger would not create a corporate monopoly, nor would it harm consumers. In fact this merger would be the best thing to happen to media in decades.

The main opponent of this merger is the terrestrial radio lobby. This fact is undisputed. Terrestrial radio is concerned about satellite radio taking market share from them. They want to prevent the merger to maintain their stranglehold on the radio market. It is in their interest to keep Sirius and XM battling each other so that *true* competition between satellite radio and terrestrial radio does not occur. Most consumers would agree that the quality of terrestrial radio has steadily declined. The top terrestrial radio music stations cycle the same 10 songs 24 hours a day for weeks, flood the airwaves with advertising, and create an environment in which innovative artists are prevented from succeeding in the industry. Terrestrial radio is able to do this because they have a captive audience. Sure, listeners can change the station, but to what but another cookie-cutter station recycling the same garbage.

But what about purchasing a satellite radio subscription from Sirius or XM? Some consumers have done exactly that. But the majority have not done so. I personally have not. Why? Because SIRIUS AND XM AS THEY STAND TODAY BOTH HAVE PROGRAMMING I WANT, AND I DO NOT WANT TO PAY MONEY FOR A SERVICE THAT IS ONLY HALF OF WHAT I WANT. So I listen to free college radio. But I would be willing to pay for a subscription to XM-SIRIUS COMBINED. If the cost gets too high, I will cancel my subscription and continue to listen to college radio. And maybe by then, terrestrial radio programming will have realized it cannot compete with its current quality level and will have improved its programming as well. This is how the free market operates.

It makes no difference to me where the music in my car is coming from, whether it is from towers on the ground, satellites above, or my own CD or MP3 player. All of it makes sound come out of my speakers. In this respect, all these media are in the SAME MARKET. All companies in this genre are competing for my listening time. Terrestrial radio knows it will have to spend more money to compete with a combined XM-Sirius merger because consumers, including me, would FLOCK to satellite radio if these two companies were allowed to merge.

APPROVE THE XM-SIRIUS MERGER NOW!

Sincerely,  
Matt Guyette